

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
October 21, 2016**

PRESENT

Dr. Carol A. Deel, LCMFT, LCPC, *Board Chair*
Ms. Susan Tangires, LCADC, LCPC, *Vice Chair*
Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens, LCPC, LCADC, *Board Secretary*
Ms. Linda Allen-Benton, LCMFT
Ms. Risa Ganel, LCMFT
Ms. Amanda Bechtel, LCPAT, LCPC
Dr. Aparna Ramaswamy, LCPC
Ms. Meena Gupta, Consumer Member

NON-BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Tracey DeShields, Executive Director
Ms. Frances Cipriotti, Executive Assistant
Ms. Anna Sullivan, Administrative Officer
Ms. Janice Isaac, Administrative Specialist
Ms. Tawana Brown, Administrative Specialist
Mr. Edward Fox, Board Investigator
Mr. David Finkler, Board Counsel

PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Ms. Kristen Neville, DHMH
Mr. Willie Harris, Lobbyist, AAMFT
Ms. Holly Bennett, LBA
Ms. Patricia Laidlaw, LCPCM
Mr. Howard Ashkin, MATOD and Medmark
Ms. Becky Meyers, Alleghany County Health Department
Ms. Kathy Mills, Alleghany County Health Department
Ms. Kristi Cuthbertson, Alleghany County Health Department
Ms. Michelle Darling, Behavioral Health Administration

MEETING

- 10:55 Dr. Carol Deel called the Open Session to order. The minutes from the June 17, 2016 meeting were reviewed.
- 11:00 Ms. Linda Allen-Benton made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried with one abstention from Ms. Amanda Bechtel.
- 11:02 Presentation- Ms. Michelle Darling, BHA (Behavior Health Administration) Medication Assisted Treatment Training Proposal.

Ms. Darling presented a proposal through a slide presentation to offer a 4 CEU course in Medication Assisted Treatment Plan (MAT) that is either online or face to face. This course would be part of the required 40 CEU's that certification and license holders currently have to meet in order to renew their credentials. According to Ms. Darling, MAT is delivered in opioid treatment programs as well as other settings including IOP, OTP, or Residential and combines behavioral therapy and medications to treat substance use related disorders. The course would cover the history of medication to treat opioid addiction, options in pharmacotherapy for opiate dependence, state and federal regulatory requirements, and patient assessment, etc. The proposed CEU is expected to go into effect by October 2017 if approved.

11:20 Mr. Howard Ashkin, the Chair of MATOD (Maryland Board for Treatment of Opioid Dependence) offered to assist in providing funds to offset the cost of providing the CEU course.

11:25 Dr. Carol Deel noted that the Regulations and Credentials committee will review the proposed workshop and make a recommendation.

11:27 Credentials Committee report – Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens

- There were 277 apps total since June meeting. (71 apps were Alcohol and Drug; 63 apps were Alcohol and Drug Trainees. 117 apps were from Professional Counselors and MFT's, 8 Art Therapy Apps and 18 LBA (Behavior Analysts apps.)
- 5 MFT apps were reviewed and approved. 2 applications are pending. One applicant will be contacted about more information. The other application was approved. There are still 9 applications that are still pending and will be reviewed.

11:30 Regulations and Legislative Committee report – Dr. Carol Deel

- According to Dr. Deel, the Committee is currently working on Chapter 13. Tentative meeting on November 11, 2016 (state holiday, offsite) and possibly December 2, 2016.
- Dr. Deel also noted that the Committee is trying to clean up the regulations to make it more easy to understand. At this time, there are no substantive changes to the regulations and the website will be updated to reflect changes.
- Teletherapy – Dr. Deel noted that she will be on the panel discussion sponsored by the LCPCM (Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland) about Teletherapy held after this meeting in Annapolis. Dr. Deel also noted that the AMFTRB (Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards) has put out guidelines for teletherapy.
 - Ms. Susan Tangires expressed concern that the Board is silent in scope of practice and supervision in teletherapy. Ms. Tangires noted that there are trainings in distance counseling.

- Ms. Tracey DeShields noted that teletherapy involves where the client is located and not where the counselor is located. The Board's position is that the counselor has to be licensed in the state where they are doing the counseling.
- Ms. DeShields also noted that according to the American Counseling Association teletherapy is not within the scope of practice for a counselor and most of the health occupations are silent on teletherapy but this Board should address this.
- Ms. Risa Ganel also noted that businesses are marketing teletherapy to clients and practitioners.
- Mr. David Finkler noted that the Board of Physicians has telemedicine regulations which states that the Board of Physicians still has jurisdiction over the physician in Maryland even if the patient is not located in Maryland. Also, if a physician is outside of Maryland and they treat a person in Maryland, they still have to have a license in Maryland.

11:50 Mr. Ashkin, MATOD noted that SAMSHA is developing information on teletherapy. He also expressed concern about the timely responses to applicants for trainee status and certification for alcohol and drug. Ms. DeShields noted that the Board will take Mr. Ashkin's comments in consideration.

11:55 Update on Behavior Analysts- Tracey DeShields

- The Advisory Committee will decide if they want to continue monthly;
- Currently there are 265 LBA's;
- Most of the applicants are coming from out of state especially Virginia;
- The expectation is that the proposed LBA regulations will be approved and available for comment by the end of the year;
- The Advisory Committee is still receiving information about people who may not understand that they now need to be licensed if they are practicing behavior; analysis. The Advisory Committee wants to reach out to associations, especially the MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education); and
- The next Advisory Committee meeting is October 27 from 9:30am to 11:30am.

12:00 Renewal - Tracey DeShields

- The portal will be open November 14, 2016.
- Applicants who do not have a background check will not be allowed to sign on the portal.
- Ms. Susan Tangires asked a question about people with dual license having to do two background checks for their license that expires two different years. Ms. DeShields stated yes currently those with two licenses with differing expiration dates will have to obtain a second background check. She suggested that there is an idea to address and will discuss further with the Board.

- Online renewal must be paid by credit card instead of checks.
- There is no late renewal period. Late renewal may have been a holdover from times where renewals applications were mailed out and mailed back into the Board. Credentials do expire after January 31, 2016.

12:02 Ms. Susan Tangires made the motion that was seconded by Ms. Risa Ganel to eliminate the “Late Renewal” period. The motion carried unanimously. The Board will notify applicants through the website and mass email.

12:10 Law Test – Tracey DeShields

- Space to provide the law test has become an issue. Therefore, Ms. DeShields has reached out to NBCC to take over the administration of the law test.
- Applicants would still get approval for the test but they would register with NBCC and go to a testing center to take the law test.
- This could allow for more people to take the law test and increase the number of dates the test is administered.
- NBCC would be able to validate the questions and the tests.
- Ms. Susan Tangires asked if it was possible to take the law test and the national exam on the same day. Ms. DeShields noted that at this time the procedure will be same.

12:15 Ms. Becky Meyers from the Allegheny Co. Health Department expressed concern about confusion about the requirements and the information that is on the website. She expressed concern that there is a struggle getting qualified individuals and asked if other facilities have voiced same concerns about the shortage of counselors in their area.

Dr. Carol Deel suggested that Ms. Meyers provide specific information and suggestions as to how to make improvements.

12:20 Open Session Adjourned.